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# PACIFIC WEEKLY

**A WESTERN JOURNAL OF FACT AND OPINION**

OCTOBER 26, 1936

## PEACE HANGS HEAVY ON THE WATERFRONT

ROBERT HOLMES

## "1934"

TOM KROMER

## CROPS WITHOUT SOIL

R. A. KOCHER

## THE LIBRARY WORM TURNS

## LADY LIBERTY HAS A BIRTHDAY

## LETTER TO AMERICAN WRITERS

**\$3 A YEAR**

**VOL. V NO. 17**

**10 CENTS A COPY**

# PACIFIC WEEKLY

VOLUME V NUMBER 17

## CONTENTS

NOTES AND COMMENT	258
LADY LIBERTY HAS A BIRTHDAY, Abner Green	259
"THE PRESS," Editorial, D. E. French	260
PROGRESSIVE RALLY AT FRESNO, Herbert Resner	260
LETTER TO AMERICAN WRITERS, Mathieu Smith	261
PEACE HANGS HEAVY ON THE WATERFRONT Robert Holmes	262
CROPS WITHOUT SOIL, R. A. Kocher	263
H. L. KNOWLES VS. THE LAW (Continued)	265
MUSIC FOR A COLLECTIVE SOCIETY, Lawrence Bernard	266
1934, Tom Kromer	267
THE WORM TURNS, Russell Winton	268
BOOKS	
A HISTORY OF THE ARTIST AS PURITAN Edward Radenzel	269
THE YEAR OF CRISIS, Gordon Chambers	270
TWO NEW DEALS, George Van der Wetering	270
HUMOROUS AND HUMORLESS, Winston Gibbs	270
ONE AGAINST SOCIETY, Edward Bruce Ramsey	271
CORRESPONDENCE	271
OUR CONTRIBUTORS	264
TO OUR READERS	272
THEY TELL ME, Ella Winter	272

## NOTES AND COMMENT

**R**ELAYED to us by *The Week*, British news weekly which has a remarkable record for prognostications of European events, are the following comments upon the European situation with respect to Spain:

"With the Junkers' planes preparing to hammer Madrid and Italian forces already in *de facto* if not yet *de jure* control of the Balearics, it appears worth while to offer from first hand sources a list of vital factors in a European situation which is quickly approaching a new phase:

Scarcely observed in the turmoil, the situation in French Morocco is developing in a direction which, if maintained, would within a few months materially alter the present military map of Europe. Despite the belated removal of Governor Peyrouton, the officers nominally serving the French Republic in Morocco have developed treasonable activity to the point where they are openly assisting the recruitment of Moorish troops for eventual use against France.

They speak openly of their intention to "imitate France." Nazi agents in the colony are greeted in some cases openly with the "Heil Hitler" salute by officers of the French army, and by the local leaders of the Croix de Feu.

The Croix de Feu itself, illegal in France, has in Morocco acquired entire control of the police force, and all that that implies.

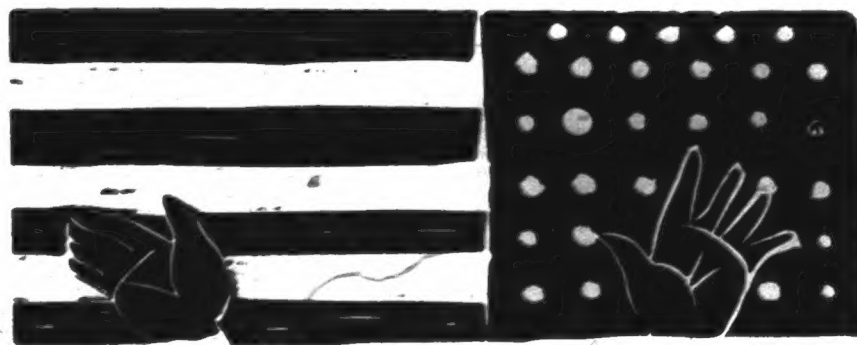
The Moorish population is in a state of semi-starvation, and therefore susceptible to very little financial inducement.

Money is pouring into the colony, being provided jointly by French and German financial interests, co-operating against the Government. Certain important chiefs are reported to be

"well in hand." Our impression, however, is that the extent to which the Nazis and the Croix de Feu have actually got control of the colored population is grossly exaggerated both by themselves and by many observers. Our information is to the effect that the hold is precarious but growing . . . the outcome will of course be materially affected by the course of events in Spain, and the degree of success obtained by General Franco's similar undertaking there. Nazi agents in Morocco state that in the calculations of the German supreme command, the paralysis—with the aid of the officers—of French colonial manpower, is an aim of equal importance with the acquisition of new air and submarine bases on the Atlantic coast, and the assumption over Portugal of the tutorship hitherto exercised by Britain.

It is correctly pointed out by them that whereas the control of the central Atlantic which will—in the event of a rebel victory in Spain—thus fall to Germany is of obviously vital importance in the ultimate "showdown" with the British, the development of the present situation in Morocco can be of an importance on the Western front even greater than the advance into and fortification of the Rhineland zone in March of this year."

**A** PROPOS of "H. L. Knowles vs. The Law" (PACIFIC WEEKLY, Oct. 19 and 26, 1936), readers are urged to consult an article which will appear, as the leading piece, in *Harper's* for November: "Aliens and Alien-Baiters" by Louis Adamic. It is an excellent and thoroughly authoritative analysis of the fallacies upon which the alien-baiters rely. For example, it demonstrates the gross distortions relied upon by the alien-baiters as to the number of deportable aliens in the United States, and so forth. The article will unquestionably have an immediate influence in encouraging well-intentioned officials in the immigration service and, at the same time, convincing editors and publicists that there is no foundation for the present anti-alien campaign. However, to insure this influence, the article should be reprinted, perhaps with annotations, as a pamphlet.



**T**HE following is the Call issued for the Western Writers Congress. It is signed by one hundred (mainly Western) writers, newspapermen and columnists, and has been sent to over six hundred people. Some meetings of the Congress will be open to the public, and several thousand are expected to attend these open meetings.

"WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, cordially invite you to participate in a Congress of Western Writers, to be held in San Francisco on November 13, 14, and 15, 1936, to discuss our common interests and devise means of protecting them.

The writers of America, and particularly the writers of the



West, wherein the liberty-loving tradition of the pioneer is still fresh, today find themselves facing critical problems.

We hold that if writers are to preserve the integrity, the pride and dignity of their craft, they must search themselves in relation to the social scene; they must consider the social and economic forces at work affecting their economic status, their creative effort, and the very basis of the right to maintain themselves through their profession.

We furthermore hold that the privilege of the writer to create according to the dictates of conscience is inescapably related to the principles of freedom of speech and press, of the right of workers by hand and brain to organize and of minorities to voice social theories as yet unpopular with the majority. We know that America is not, and cannot hope to be, unaffected by the sinister forces of reaction which threaten to destroy cultural values. We have been given evidence of the suppressions, the banishments and the book burnings that have been the unhappy heritage of our European fellows. Writers of the West, who have experienced a challenge symptomatic of these forces, are determined that they shall not happen here.

The Congress will therefore discuss the situation of the writer in its most important aspects, defined generally as follows:

Technical and Creative Problems; Social and Economic Relationships; Economics of the Writing Profession; Government Art Projects and Subsidies; Defense of Culture and Progress; Organizational Questions.

We urge all writers of professional standing in this great region to join us in making the Congress a significant event in the cultural life and progress of the West."

## LADY LIBERTY HAS A BIRTHDAY

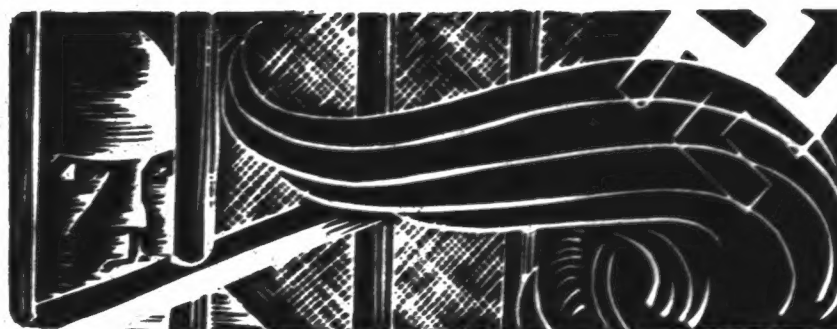
**T**HEY'RE celebrating the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Statue of Liberty out here in the harbor October 28. The old Lady, who has been associated with Palmer raids and red scares, will for the day find herself regaled with speeches and hunting, with "patriotism" and "liberty."

It is of course no fault of her's she was placed, perhaps in a symbolic accident, with her back to Ellis Island. Right there in the harbor, about a thousand feet from the festivities celebrating the Lady's 50th anniversary, Alfred Miller will be sitting in an Ellis Island prison cell—three or four days before he is scheduled to be placed on board a ship leaving for Hitler Germany, and death.

Alfred Miller came to this country in 1929, legally. In February, 1934, he undertook to edit the *Producers News*, a co-operative farm weekly published in Plentywood, Montana. The paper conducted a vigorous campaign to secure adequate relief for the farmers who had been hit by an extended drought and the economic depression. Miller was in the middle of the fight, exposing corrupt tactics of relief officials, exposing discrimination, fighting inefficiency, demanding for the farmer what was rightfully due him.

The wind-up came with Miller's arrest for deportation on the ground he was a member of the Communist Party. The courts decided with the Labor Department, upholding Miller's deportation. Judge Caffey, in refusing a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, said:

"Let it be assumed that Jefferson or Lincoln advocated the use of force or violence in overthrowing the Government of the United States, or, what is equivalent, assume that a citizen of the United States today advocates that course. This



would not help the relator (Alfred Miller) in the slightest. He is an alien. That makes the difference under our law."

And if Lady Liberty can see far enough, out across the land into Texas, she may notice two figures cross the border at Laredo into Mexico. Two refugees, Otto Richter, and his wife, Bertha, an American-born citizen, will leave the United States on this day of celebration, October 28, for Mexico, where they will receive the asylum from Nazi oppression denied them by Frances Perkins.

Otto Richter was beaten up by Nazi storm troopers on the night of the Reichstag fire. For four and a half months he hid in Germany, finally landing a job on the S. S. Esta. Told he was slated for arrest and a concentration camp on the ship's return to Germany, Richter jumped ship in Seattle and worked his way down to San Francisco. Serving soup to striking marine workers during the general strike of 1934, Richter was arrested (after a vigilante raid on the soup kitchen) and held for deportation, charged with being in the country "illegally."

Richter, married to an American-born citizen, was ordered deported to Hitler Germany. Nation-wide protest stormed the Labor Department and the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born finally won asylum for the anti-Nazi and his wife in Mexico.

This inscription is carved at the base of the Statue of Liberty:

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,  
Send these, the homeless, tempest tost, to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

ABNER GREEN

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Published every Monday by Pacific Associates, Box 1350  
Carmel, California

PACIFIC WEEKLY subscription rates: \$3.00 a year, \$1.75 for six months in the United States, its territories and possessions, and Mexico; \$3.50 a year, \$2.10 for six months in Canada and foreign countries. Single copies ten cents. Rates for advertising, display and classified, will be furnished upon request.

PACIFIC WEEKLY is not at present able to pay for contributions, but welcomes fact and opinion reporting, particularly in the Pacific region. No responsibility can be taken for any Manuscripts, and only Manuscripts accompanied by stamped, addressed envelopes can be returned.

Entered as second-class matter October 25, 1934 at the Post Office at Carmel, California, under the act of March 3, 1879



## "THE PRESS"

MARIN COUNTY launched a new Forum the evening of October 13th with a debate on "The Press." Defending it was Paul Smith, Executive editor of the S. F. Chronicle. Attacking was John McNab, who, in the name of the legal profession, denounced the journalists for conducting trials in the daily news sheets, for invading the halls of justice to snap witnesses, juries and judges, and for actually influencing judicial verdicts by sensational and false reports of court proceedings. He cited the Lindbergh and Lampson.

Fluent and masterly was McNab's presentation. What did his opponent answer to these charges?

"This isn't a debate," countered Smith, "because I agree with Mr. McNab. The press is grievously at fault. Something has got to be done about this business of courts, but I ask you this: Shouldn't something be done about judges who invite publicity and encourage newspaper write-ups for the sake of getting re-elected?"

Appreciative laughter from the crowded auditorium greeted this thrust. Merriment grew as the combatants seemed about to fraternize over the vision of mutual reform.

"Gentlemen, I remind you," said the bluff presiding naval commander, Captain Powers Symington; "gentlemen, this is a debate. We hoped to see you hack each other limb from limb and wade in gore up to the waist. Don't disappoint us."

McNab took up the case once more against the Press.

"This does not happen in England. It is not that they have different laws, but they enforce them differently. No law-suit is reported in the papers till a verdict has been rendered. To write anything that may prejudice a judge or a jury is contempt of court. Dailies have been fined \$50,000 for doing this. The answer is, they don't!"

"But are the judges in England elected?"

"No, they are appointed. And in our Federal courts, where judges are appointed, nothing like this happens, either. A reporter would languish in Leavenworth if he should try to photograph a judge on the bench or make capital out of a Federal case. However, our judges in the lower courts will probably continue to be elected for some time; meanwhile something has to be done to remedy this abuse."

"When the great American public decides to do anything, it begins by passing a law," said Smith. "But you people must be careful before passing a law to curb the press. Freedom of opinion is one of our most cherished rights. Sensational journalism may be the price we pay for that liberty. No scandals are reported in the daily papers of Germany, Italy, Soviet Russia or Japan. Censorship exists now in all but the English speaking lands, the Scandinavian countries, Holland, France, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. What has happened elsewhere may happen here if we are not vigilant. Beware of laws which in throttling the bad press may also be used to throttle the good press."

Questions shot at the speakers afterwards indicated this was no academic discussion. Press men bedeviled McNab, but the audience as a whole had more of a score to settle with Smith. How many mornings had they not cursed impotently some editorial and wished they could lay hands on the fellow who wrote it! Now here he was. Why had he written the Salinas articles? Why did the papers pander to the lowest tastes and emotions? Why . . . ?

"When you know what you want and make it known as you are doing in this meeting, editors will give it to you. It's up to you." That was Paul Smith's parting words.

D. E. FRENCH

## PROGRESSIVE RALLY AT FRESNO

WITH THE immediate objective of re-electing Franklin D. Roosevelt to the presidency, and the long time purpose of uniting progressives and liberals in an active political movement, the California section of the Progressive National Committee met in Fresno on October 18.

At the meeting, presided over by George T. Davis, San Francisco labor attorney, member of the Board of Bar Governors of San Francisco, and counsel for Tom Mooney, were more than a hundred California liberals and progressives, including Congressmen Byron N. Scott of Long Beach, former Superior Court Judge Lester Wm. Roth, Judge Robert Kenny, both of Los Angeles, Manchester Boddy, publisher of the Los Angeles Illustrated News, George Kidwell, California Federation of Labor delegate to the A. F. of L. convention at Tampa next month, Hugo Ernst, San Francisco labor Progressive, Carey McWilliams and George Winfield Scott, Los Angeles attorneys. Other sponsors of the meeting were Judge Ben Lindsey and Judge Francis J. Heney of Los Angeles, Judge Jackson Ralston of San Mateo, and State Senator Culbert L. Olson.

The Committee was formed on a national basis at Chicago last month by Senators Robert LaFollette, George W. Norris, Homer T. Bone, Edward P. Costigan, Elmer A. Benson, Representative Maury Maverick, Governor Philip LaFollette, Frank P. Walsh, noted liberal of the American bar, Elizabeth W. Brandeis, Grace Abbott, John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, George M. Harrison, A. F. of L. Vice President, and a host of other American liberal leaders.

While the Committee is supporting Roosevelt this year in order to defeat the reactionary Republicans, it laid down a series of principles which if followed out will mean that 1940 will see a genuine farmer-labor party in the field. Keynoting its objectives, the National Committee has declared, "Progressives must be united to attain the two objectives essential to the preservation of the American form of government, namely increased production of wealth and a fair distribution of wealth as it is produced year by year."

An encouraging and enthusiastic note was struck at the Fresno meeting. The unification of all progressive and liberal groups was seen as vitally necessary in order to avert the menace of fascism in America. Red-baiting and anti-labor activity was excoriated. The production of civil liberties, the preservation of national resources from exploitation at the hands of predatory special interests, advancement of the welfare of all workers, whether by hand or brain, were among the meeting's long-time plans.

Helpful as such a meeting is to progressive political activity in California and the nation, it must be continually borne in mind, and the leaders of the Committee must be cautioned, that any effective political movement must be built from the bottom. Not leaders alone are necessary, but a rank-and-file mass group must be unified into an active whole. To this end, the Epics, Utopians, left-wing Democrats, organized Labor, and Townsendites, if possible, must be brought together. Such a program presents educational problems as well as tactical and procedural difficulties. Nevertheless, it is a job that must be done if the Progressive Committee is sincere in its declaration of principles.

We hope that this Progressive Committee may become an important force in organizing and directing the elements that will constitute the Farmer-Labor party.

HERBERT RESNER



# LETTER TO AMERICAN WRITERS

MATTHIEU SMITH

**B**RUCE BLIVEN's recent article in the *New Republic*, on the impending social "earthquake," has all the earmarks of being the epitome of sanity in the socially significant writing of our day. He poses the thought, "If only the unhappy wretches could be made to see that their earthquake is no natural phenomenon."

May I indicate to this "trade-union journalist" and to all of America's writers that it is within their power and rightful scope to do exactly that! People can be made to see that they should not go to war to save the profit system for the capitalists and they can be shown that fascism is the road to war and further economic misery. What they need is an honest and willing corps of respected thinkers to lay the facts before them. A mighty nucleus for that corps already exists in the four progressive national organizations of writers, the American Newspaper Guild, the Authors League of America, the American Writers Union, and the League of American Writers.

That the leaders and members of these organizations (and other regional groups) are the people to lead in spreading the word is proven by the fact that corruption is non-existent in the running of these organizations. As an active participant in the struggles of the American Writers Union for the past two years, during which time I have worked with the officials of the other organizations mentioned, not once has there occurred an incident which would cast doubt upon the honesty of any of the officials or members of these unions.

As to the integrity of the overwhelming majority of the "rank and file" of writers' organizations, such doubts as heretofore may have been mine were completely dispelled during the past four months, in which time I have had contact with thousands of America's prose writers, poets, playwrights and radio script writers. In my capacity as national organizer for the American Writers Union, I have found, first: that authors throughout the land are ready to go to bat for their own economic sustenance as provided for in the proposed AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS. Second: they are eager to throw their full weight against culture-destroying fascism and man-destroying war. Third: that they have a capacity for co-operation which is often a surprise to themselves. The few literary people who fail to co-operate do so not because they "think that thinkers can't be organized"; their non-cooperation is based on certain honest differences of opinion.

A famous humanitarian once warned the common people of the world that they could work with the intellectuals for mutually progressive purposes but that these same intellectuals were to be watched like a hawk. While I am not in complete disagreement with his thesis, I can say that it applies less to the American intelligentsia than to other national bodies of cultural workers. Our toilers with the brain have deep and alive roots in the society in which they live. American artists and writers

(expatriates excepted) have never been so far removed from realistic conception that they have seriously gone Da-Da, as was the case in other countries. A lot of them took to liquor, but even that can be partially attributed to revolt against the anti-social prohibition law.

It is this realism, this sometimes not-too-conscious appreciation of the fact that the writer and the man and the universe have mutual problems to settle, that will cause the organized American writers to do even more for the enlightenment of their brethren than the members of the French Writers' Union have done for the workers and peasants of France. For every anti-war, anti-fascist literary presentation or oral presentation that Gide, Malraux, and Rolland have made to their people, we will match two by Broun, Lewis, Lumpkin, Cowley, Crichton, Dreiser, Odets, LeSueur, Frank, Flandrau, Kent, Beard, Gold, Lawson, Gregory, Farrell, Barnes, Bliven, Sandburg, yes, and even Thomas Wolfe who certainly doesn't belong on the side of barbarism and greed. These are just a few of the hundreds of well-known authors, who, solidly organized, adequately fed, and properly published and publicized can make our people see "that their earthquake is no natural phenomenon," and that their democratic principles can be preserved and made real.

To this end let our newsmen and writers merge their organizations, pool their organizations' resources, and then set about organizing all men and women of the craft into one big *Writers and Newsmen's Union of America, A. F. of L.*

This form of single organization can accomplish the following things within one year.

- (1) In co-operation with artists, musicians, and actors' unions, bring about the establishment by the government of the AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS. This new department to pay subventions to needy and talented workers in the arts.
- (2) Through wide publicity and public boycott, force Hearst and other publishers to pay newspapermen a living wage and to recognize organization.
- (3) Establish in each principal city of the United States a House of Culture equipped with selected library, meeting room, Union office, social hall, and a speakers' bureau which would pay part of the expenses of the House.
- (4) Publish a national official organ of the Union.
- (5) Arrange for cheap publication and broad distribution of good manuscripts which would, in the ordinary course of publishing considerations, be relegated to the authors' attic.

I am confident that the elected leaders of the writers' groups mentioned will see the efficacy of and the necessity for amalgamation. As to the Newspaper Guild's projected vertical or industrial organization with the printing trades unions, this would not be hindered by or hinder the previous craft consolidation. Free-lance writers, too, know that they have much in common with the men who set the type.





# PEACE HANGS HEAVY

ROBERT HOLMES

**P**EACE hangs heavy on the San Francisco waterfront. While Admiral H. G. Hamlet, representing the recently appointed, all-powerful Maritime Commission, is making what he states is an impartial investigation of the troubled maritime situation and is meeting with shipowners, union representatives and government officials to that end, longshore and marine unions are conducting a coastwide referendum that would empower the Maritime Federation Joint Negotiating Committee to call a strike at midnight, October 28 if no satisfactory agreement is reached before that date by unions and shipowners on fundamental issues.

The fundamental issues of each union are:

**I. L. A.**—Joint hiring hall with union dispatcher, and six hour day.

**Sailors' Union of the Pacific**—Union hiring hall, and cash payment for overtime. (At the present time, time off instead of cash is granted for overtime.)

**Marine Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders and Wipers' Association**—Union hiring hall, and cash overtime.

**Marine Cooks and Stewards**—Decent, habitable living quarters, union hiring hall, and eight hour day within twelve hours. (At the present time, these men work ten hours within fifteen hours, during all of which time they are on call.)

**Masters, Mates and Pilots**—Preference of employment, and cash overtime.

**Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association**—Preference of employment, and increased manning scale. (At the present time, ships are not staffed with sufficient engineers.)

**American Radio Telegraphists Association**—Union hiring hall, eight hour day, and operators to do only radio watch duty. (At the present time operators have to do certain paper work in connection with cargo.)

Almost entirely, the fundamental rights listed above are now possessed by the unions. These were the rights fought and won during the bloody strike of 1934. The unions will not give up these rights without a fight.

So far, the shipowners have met the unions' overtures for peace with ultimatums and threats to break off negotiations, to close the port before they submit to what they call "union dictation." Only the most strenuous efforts on the part of the unions and Assistant Secretary of Labor Edward F. McGrady succeeded in staving off a lockout when existing agreements were due to expire on September 30. An extension of existing agreements was secured until October 15, and now until October 26 on the request of the Maritime Commission which promised to investigate and stated that it would use "its power and authority both legal and moral to prevent the threatened catastrophe."

The shipowners acquiesced to the extensions, informing the Commission that they expected it to assume responsibility for the situation, and guarantee them that there would be no stoppages of work on the part of the unions. The shipowners are now sitting back in a manner that seems all too complacent in view of their former bitter refusals to grant extensions of the agreements. The answer presumably is that the Maritime Commission has promised the owners plenty of loot and has guaranteed the waterfront employers that they will receive government money for any additional costs incurred by them as a result of their acceptance of the Commission's requests.

The key to the Maritime Commission's role in the controversy can be found in the Bland-Copeland act under which it is created. The purpose of the act is to subsidize an American merchant marine that would supplement the navy in time of war. That is why the personnel of the Commission is made up of navy men. And that is a very good reason why the Commission would like a permanent peaceful settlement of the West Coast maritime situation. With an unsettled labor problem it would be difficult to build up the desired merchant marine. In order that the navy should get what it wants, it might very well be that the Commission's policy might be peace at any price.

At any rate, it seems quite clear that the shipowners have been promised what they want. The West Coast operators have played their hands cleverly to extract their slice of the hundred million dollar subsidy fund. True, there is the minor detail of arranging subsidy contracts, but the ace card, their policy and actions toward the unions, has been adroitly used. The labor question has been neatly dumped in the lap of the Commissioner. And furthermore, it isn't going to cost the operators anything. Uncle Sam, who the employers in their sometime function as members of the Republican Committee cry out is recklessly spending the taxpayers' money, will pay the bill as submitted by them for going along with the Commission. Their tears are only crocodile ones when they are on the receiving end of the government's largess.

It is not anywhere clear so far whether the workers will get anything in this deal. They have consented to the extensions of existing agreements with the hope and expectation that the Commission would guarantee protection of their fundamental rights. If such a guarantee were forthcoming, the remaining issues of wages and working conditions could be worked out by a procedure to be devised. As yet, the Commission's only answer has been a promise to investigate. Silence or evasions meet the question of fundamental rights. Meanwhile, negotiations with the shipowners have been almost completely without result.

The situation is such that Harry Bridges, militant district I. L. A. president, has been forced to declare, "We strung along with McGrady and the Commission, but we find the Commission taking the shipowners' side. We agreed to two extensions, and during that time no progress has been made toward reaching agreements by direct negotiations. Now the Commission arbitrarily demands we keep on working. We're not in the Navy yet."

The Maritime Commission will learn that it is dealing neither with enlisted men, submissive employees, or untutored laborers in the West Coast longshore and marine workers. They are men who know that they want and intend to have it. They waged and won a strike in 1934 that marks a historic point in the onward march of labor. The gains they obtained in that tremendous struggle will not be surrendered. Nor will they be lost through the workers being outsmarted. As Bridges says, "The strike vote is not a bluff. If we vote to strike, we walk out unless the shipowners drop the demands which would force us to give up the things we fought for and won two years ago."

While on September 30 the employers were ready to force a lockout (a fact which is testified to by their action in instruct-



ing all their customers to forward freight by rail or truck instead of ship after that date and corroborated by documents in the possession of Secretary McGrady) and smash the long-shore and marine unions, they have apparently given up that plan for the present. Perhaps they are influenced by the counsel of one prominent San Franciscan who told them, "Of course we must break the strike if there is one. But what good would that do you? You'll just have another union and another strike on your hands next year. You have to learn to get along with the unions. After all, this is 1936." Probably, however, the smell of increased profits enhanced by government donations has prevailed upon the employers to delay for awhile translating their hatred for Harry Bridges and his supporters into overt action.

The men genuinely want peace. They will not strike unless it is absolutely necessary in order to protect their fundamental rights. The unions have a large amount of public support, helped by the fact that at least two San Francisco papers are

printing the facts about the waterfront. Merely the facts are enough to prove the justice of the workers' position. Support has come even from some businessmen. One of them, influential in San Francisco, has stated, "One thing that will not come back to San Francisco is pier-head hiring." He knows the evils attendant on the hiring system prevalent during the years when the waterfront employers unfeelingly exploited their employees.

October 26, when the strike vote is to be known, a vote which by a huge preponderance should empower the Joint Committee to call a strike, is the next crucial point. Meantime, the Commission must be educated to the complex and difficult problem it faces. Negotiations are expected to continue, but with no benefit to the unions unless the Commission forces the employers to make honest efforts toward arriving at a settlement. During the interim, peace hangs heavy on the waterfront.

## CROPS WITHOUT SOIL

R. A. KOCHER

**W**HEN, in comparatively recent geological times, man invented agriculture, he committed himself to a policy of interfering with the balance of nature. This meddling enabled him to multiply Biblically; from such interference with nature he cannot now turn back. Man has so wantonly used up natural resources in the past that there is great danger of ultimate starvation unless he takes steps to guard what is left. The application of knowledge of soil conservation and the use of artificial fertilizers could prevent any disaster and a discovery has recently been made which would greatly aid this. This development does away with soil altogether in the raising of crops.

To the man on the street, fertilizers probably seem of little importance in human destiny (unless he happened to be in the A.E.F. assigned to cleaning up French barnyards). But a reading of history should revise that opinion. When fertilizers were extensively introduced, in the nineteenth century, the population of Europe had been growing rapidly and agriculture had already begun to suffer from soil exhaustion. With the general use of artificial fertilizers, yields from the land were sufficiently increased to maintain a growing population. Until the world war, Germany had been supplying the world with the greater part of its potash from its seemingly inexhaustible deposits in Stassfurt and Alsace-Lorraine. The wild scramble for potash when Germany's supply was cut off from America will be remembered. Wood ashes were leached, kelp as well as molasses from sugar beets was incinerated, desert lakes were evaporated, feldspar subjected to chemical treatment. The successful commercial development of the process for fixation of atmospheric nitrogen, for fertilizer nitrates, dates from the same period.

In spite of the fact that the means and advantages of conserving soil fertility were known almost from the dawn of agriculture, millions of acres of once arable land have been and are still being laid waste in this country. In two booklets just distributed by the United States Resettlement Administration, (U.S.R.A.) the end result is made clear with charts and photographs. In one is pictured a plow abandoned in the desert it had helped to make. A good thing, it seems, has

been overdone. Pandora has been getting in her dirty work.

The objective of the U.S.R.A. is relief for those who have suffered from a "fruitless attempt to wrest a living from 'dead acres'." "Dead acre" farms are being purchased and the families living on them are given an opportunity to move to better land. "Centuries of working their limited farm land taught the peasants of Europe to conserve soil and forests. The first colonists brought this knowledge with them to the New World. But, faced with an abundance of land such as they had never known, they soon lost their interest in the wise principles of agriculture and industry." So they used the land for all they could get out of it and when the "bountiful yields became exhausted through lack of proper care, the owners moved to fresh fields, leaving the old to be reclaimed by the wilderness."

So it was not lack of knowledge of soil conservation that caused the waste, but rugged individualism. Where profit is the first motive it is asking a lot to expect one generation to sacrifice itself for the next. The U.S.R.A.'s booklet puts reliance exactly where it was before the damage was done. It says, "Obviously the Government cannot, and does not intend to purchase all the lands which are being unwisely used. Great reliance must be placed on encouraging private landowners to improve their use of the land." So we may expect the cycle to go on. If the U.S.R.A. continues in operation, it may expect to move a lot of families in the next fifty years. Lack of good land will slow up the emigration long before that time. What will we do for food when all the land is exhausted?

With virgin fertility rapidly disappearing, artificially produced fertility becomes increasingly important. In Europe, notably in Essex County in England, the virgin fertility has long since disappeared having been replaced by artificially produced fertility. Scientific development in this field is still far in advance of its general application. Proper land management requires capital and the American farmer is already loaded down with debts. Experts have calculated that "if only 80 per cent of possible yields were achieved by means of water and fertilizers, 50 million acres would grow all the



wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, cotton, potatoes, and sugar now produced on 350 million acres."\* Henry K. Norton gives comparable figures: "47 million acres will supply the same quantity of product we now obtain from 241 million acres."† Such yields are attainable only under controlled methods of farming, which still appear a long way off. They are mentioned to bolster hope against the prospect of wholesale starvation.

The recent development which promises to place nature's chief limits to productivity under control is "dirtless farming," developed by Prof. Gericke of the University of California. The system is an outgrowth of a method used in experimental laboratories in studies on mineral requirements of plants. Prof. Gericke began large scale operations several years ago hoping the method might become commercially profitable. Tanks of sheet metal, concrete, or wood, 10 feet by 2½ feet with a depth of 8 inches are commonly used as a unit. This shallow tank is covered with a frame supporting a wire netting, over which is spread several inches of excelsior, moss or sawdust. In this "bed" seed are planted or young plants are set out, their roots free to grow down into the water-filled tank below. To this water is added a fertilizer unit—a bottle containing the right amount and proportions of mineral nutrients, suitable for the particular plant under cultivation. This container is provided with openings which allow the nutrients to diffuse out into the water as they dissolve.

The original experiments were conducted in an unheated greenhouse; bottom heat was provided by electric heating cables placed in the tanks and provided with thermostats to insure optimum growing temperature. Because of the freedom from external weather conditions the growing period extends practically throughout the year. Tomato plants grew to 22 feet in height, producing fruit the length of the plant for eight months of the year. Potatoes produce three crops in the same tank in one year. The four limiting factors of field grown crops: temperature, topography, moisture, soil, as well as insect pests, are completely under control.

Yields by this method are astonishing. The average yield per tank of tomatoes (area 25 square feet) was 306 pounds, or over 200 tons per acre, against a United States average at present of 3 tons to the acre for field-grown and 28 tons per acre under glass; potatoes, 25.6 bushels from a tank having a surface of one hundredth of an acre, or 2560 bushels per acre, against a United States average of 116 bushels. Many other vegetables have shown similar phenomenal yields. Experiments are being tried with wheat. Tobacco has been grown to a height of twenty feet. Larger scale operations have already been carried out by commercial growers under Prof. Gericke's supervision. One such plant I have witnessed has a third of an acre under glass. The quality of the product is superior and the crops have been sold on the open market in competition with field-grown crops. From the standpoint of profits, these experiments cannot yet be termed a commercial success. But the method is under way and many lessons have been learned. For example, electric heat, so far used is too expensive and can be replaced by hot water systems at a considerable saving. The ordinary greenhouse is prohibitive in cost if crops are to be sold in competition with crops grown out of doors. (Fabric covered greenhouses, e.g. viscose wire netting would be much cheaper, and probably as satisfactory). However, with the high prices received for out-of-

season crops, "dirtless farming" could now easily compete with ordinary greenhouse cultivation.

Outdoor cultivation in liquid media has likewise proved a success in those areas where the same crops have been successfully field grown. Although the out-of-door yields by this method, because of the shorter growing season, are less than those produced under cover, they are, nevertheless, far greater than can be obtained from soil grown plants.

Full details of the method have not been published by Prof. Gericke. Inquires as to nutrients and their percentages are apt to be met with the reply, "Because cultural technique must be adjusted to meet both the character of the crop and climate where grown, the data at hand is still too incomplete to warrant publication of the method save in terms of generalities." In spite of this "scientific conservatism" amateurs with a knowledge of plant physiology already have been setting out pans in the back yard or on the roof, hoping in due time to step out and bring in the breakfast strawberries or the "fixins" for the noonday salad.

No use speculating on what a universal development of this kind would do to our agricultural economy or to the millions now dependent on dirt farms for a living. Millions are not making a go of it now; other millions are hungry even though there is already enough to go around. It is true that until agriculture is controlled and collectivized, further industrialization may be expected to aggravate the dilemma. That is business for political economists. Scientists and technologists can hardly be blamed for continuing to make progress in their chosen fields. Techniques have always been the groundwork of civilization; the machinery of government has come after. As technology progresses the machinery of government must be kept up to date to go along with it. Just now there are signs that that machinery is in need of overhauling to become adjusted to the accelerating pace of scientific progress.

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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\*Quoted by Stuart Chase, *The Economy of Abundance*, letter from O. W. Willcox.

†New Outlook, October 1933.



## H. L. KNOWLES

## VS. THE LAW

[CONTINUED]

**W**E CONTINUE today the documentary evidence of attempted interference on the part of some American Legion officials with the workings of the U. S. law. This memorandum is published as it reached PACIFIC WEEKLY. It is signed by three legal advisers and members of the Department of Immigration and Naturalization. Harper L. Knowles is chairman of the Subversive Activities Committee of the American Legion.)

"In a letter dated February 17, 1936, addressed to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, Mr. Knowles takes exception to an opinion of the Solicitor of the Department of Labor holding that membership in certain left wing labor organizations does not, in itself, constitute grounds for the institution of deportation proceedings, although members of such organizations who themselves believe in or advocate, or who are members of organizations which believe in or advocate, the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence, are subject to the institution of deportation proceedings. The organizations specifically covered by this opinion were:

National Miners Union, Marine Workers Industrial Union, Tampa Tobacco Workers Industrial Union, National Textile Workers, Metal Workers Industrial Union, International Labor Defense, Trade Union Unity League.

After studying the history of these organizations the Solicitor of the Department of Labor, in the opinion in question, found that they had never resorted to any physical or verbal attack upon the American political structure, that throughout the life of these organizations they had been an industrial force rather than a political one, and that there was no evidence that the organizations listed had ever executed or advocated policies aimed at the overthrow of the Government of the United States. The Solicitor further stated as follows:

"Membership in each such union is avowedly solicited only from those working in a particular industry. Activities are directed almost exclusively in economic channels. Antagonism, if any is promoted, is toward the older and more conservative unions, but not toward democratic government. For the United States to deport a man merely for membership in such a union is to deport a man for seeking to overthrow conservative union domination, not for seeking to overthrow the Government of the United States.

Mr. Knowles may, of course, take issue with this interpretation of the law. Nevertheless, the Solicitor is the authorized legal adviser of the Secretary of Labor, and administrative officers of the Department must be governed by his opinion.

In a letter dated March 19, 1936, addressed to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Mr. Knowles stated:

"My attention has been directed to the fact that one George Lansbury, said to be a leader of the Independent Labor Party in the British Parliament and an ardent disciple of Lenin, is to arrive in America sometime during the month of April, 1936. . . . I therefore, in behalf of the members of the American Legion, whose loyalty cannot be questioned,

specifically demand of you that you refuse entrance to this country to Mr. Lansbury. . . . You have ample time to fortify yourself with this man's record, and if he is admitted in the face of this protest, national publicity will be given to your dereliction of duty."

Persons intending to visit the United States first have to apply to an American Consul abroad for a visa, which is issued only if there appears to be no legal bar to admission. Hence Mr. Knowles' peremptory demand should properly have been addressed to the Secretary of State, except perhaps that even Mr. Knowles might not have felt himself justified in issuing instructions to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Lansbury, a former member of the British Government and one of the most distinguished and respected men in British public life, according to the British "Who's Who" and the "Political Handbook of the World," published by Harper & Bros. for the Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., is not a member of the Independent Labor Party but is a leader of the Labor Party, which has no Communistic affiliations, and which, under Ramsay MacDonald, was twice responsible for the government of Great Britain. He has been a member of parliament since 1922, held office when the Labor Party was in power, served as a member of a Royal commission, and was apparently appointed to the Privy Council. There were, of course, no legal grounds for barring him from the United States. He was granted a visa by the Consular authorities in England and made his visit to the United States in due course.

In a letter to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization dated March 21, 1936, Mr. Knowles demanded the deportation of Marcus Graham, editor of "Man—A Journal of the Anarchist Ideal and Movement," published in San Francisco. He called attention in this letter to the fact that Marcus Graham was ordered deported some years ago, and concluded with the statement: "There is no reason in sight to account for the laxity of the Department of Labor in this instance."

The records of this Service show that a warrant was issued for the deportation of Marcus Graham, alias Robert Parsons, under date of November 15, 1930. At the time of his hearing in deportation proceedings Graham refused to answer questions except to say that he was born in Montreal, Canada. The Canadian authorities refused permission for Graham's removal to that country, as no record could be found of his birth in Montreal or elsewhere in the Dominion.

This is one of many cases, including the Russian cases dealt with before, in which deportation is impossible because of lack of proof as to citizenship in the country to which deportation is proposed, and not due to any laxity in the Department of Labor as Mr. Knowles alleges.

In a letter to the commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization of March 21, 1936, Mr. Knowles also protested against a statement by the Commissioner in support of the Kerr-Coolidge Bill; he said *inter alia*:

"At such a time as this, when every citizen of America is straining under the burden of taxation, the great portion of which is being spent or wasted on 'relief' projects; and when

aliens are not only evading this burden of taxation but are actually benefiting by the proceeds thereof, it is most unseemly for an official of the Government openly to advocate the enactment of legislation that cannot but increase the burden on Americans."

The arguments for and against the Keer-Coolidge Bill have been presented at great length at hearings before Committees of Congress, in official reports and in the press. They cannot be summarized here to any advantage. It may be stated, however, that Mr. Knowles' charge that the enactment of this bill would increase the burden on Americans is without any vestige of foundation. The exact opposite is true. The bill proposes to allow certain aliens of good character who are now deportable to remain in the United States and thereby relieve the Government of expense of providing for their dependents. It would moreover, permit the deportation of three times as many alien criminals as are deportable under existing law.

On April 7, 1936, Mr. Knowles addressed a letter to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, transmitting to the Commissioner a copy of the "Crockett Signal" containing a report of a speech delivered by Harry Bridges and of an interview with Bridges. On April 15, 1936, he forwarded an affidavit by Carl Toffregen, publisher of the "Crockett Signal," embodying his version of a conversation with Bridges. Mr. Knowles contended that this affidavit and the other material submitted was sufficient basis for instituting deportation proceedings against Bridges. The affidavit and the material in question were referred to the Acting Solicitor of the Department of Labor, who recommended against the institution of proceedings, expressing the opinion that:

"It is highly probable that a Federal court would reject as capricious and without basis your finding on the evidence submitted that Bridges came within the statute cited, were such a course adopted."

The opinion, moreover, was expressed by other competent legal officers of the Department that, instead of serving the end sought by Mr. Knowles, if deportation proceedings were instituted on the evidence submitted by him it would, in all probability, give Bridges the opportunity of conclusively demonstrating in court that he is not subject to deportation as a person who believes in or advocates the overthrow of the Government by force or violence.

On June 10, 1936 Mr. Knowles wrote to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, saying that the American Legion "want to know the reason for the delay" in the deportation of Jack Warnick. He concluded the letter with the statement that he was inclined "to the belief that you personally are sympathetic to the cause of Communism and radical aliens, and I will say to you frankly that unless some immediate action is taken by your department, both nationally and locally, in the fulfillment of your oath of office, efforts will be made by the American Legion to bring about a full Congressional investigation of the administration of your office."

Our records show that a warrant for the arrest of Jack Warnick in deportation proceedings was issued on October 2, 1935, charging that he is a member of or affiliated with an organization prescribed by the Act of October 16, 1918, as amended by the Act of June 5, 1920. A hearing was held under this warrant at San Francisco, on October 4, 1935, and the record of the proceedings was forwarded to the Department in March 1936. The record shows that Warnick has

resided in the United States with the exception of a few short absences, since 1908 or 1909. He testified that he was born in Montreal, Canada, on January 11, 1907. The matter of his return to Canada was taken up with the Canadian authorities, who reported under date of July 7, that no record could be found of the alien's birth in Montreal, and, therefore, a letter authorizing his return to Canada under deportation proceedings would not be issued. This is the status of the case at the present time.

"The majority of his (Mr. Knowles') letters are too abusive to merit the courtesy of a reply. Any answer that may be made to him will serve only to prolong a useless correspondence."

## MUSIC FOR A COLLECTIVE SOCIETY

### LAWRENCE BERNARD

#### THE TOILERS

Sons of sweat and joy,  
Be free.  
Sons of earth stand up.  
Be!  
Sons of life look up,  
Take hope  
Tomorrow and today join hands  
Eternally.

#### WANDERERS

We have all suckled  
From the good sweet teat  
Of the once rich earth.  
We have all lain  
By the same brook.  
We have all slept  
On the same bed,  
Turned on the same stones,  
Looked into the same night.

#### SONG IN A MAJOR

Do you remember?  
I remember our mother.  
We are kin!  
Black and yellow and brown  
Red and white, we are brother.

#### THE MASTERS: WAR AND FASCISM

You have learned far too well, O Masters  
For me to tell in a word all things unheard.  
You killed Man with a hand of stones  
Maimed him, bled him, stripped him  
To his very bones.  
Chained him, drove him, whipped him,  
Burned him in your earthly hell,  
Called it Law, and spoke of Order.  
Knelt and swore to Church and King!  
Dead hope, dead faith, O hollow thing!  
Shallow as the shallow drum  
From whose mouth all lies come!



# " 1934 "

**TOM KROMER**

IT IS 1934.

Beside the tracks of the U. P., S. P., Santa Fe, and B.&O. are towns built by the unemployed of tin cans from the garbage dumps and old pieces of sheet metal, and scraps of boxes. There are smokestacks in the houses and in the evenings you can see the flickering fires from their furnaces as they cook up the green boloney butts and the split peas and beans that they bum from the warehouses and the soggy potatoes that they pick up along side the tracks. And every town has one of these sores on its outskirts and some have two or three and men hop off of incoming freights cold and hungry and desperate and they cook up a cup of coffee from the old grounds that they find stuck hard and dry to the edges of the old coffee pots that sit by the fire places. They hulk around these fires in the night like hollow eyed ghosts in the night and the people in the town do not know they are there except sometimes comes a knock on the door and a whining voice asks can it mow the lawn for a piece of bread spread with butter. But sometimes too many whining voices ask can they mow the lawn for some bread spread with butter and then the cops of the town and the firemen go down to these jungles by the tracks with their 45's and their axes and shoot and cut holes in the skillet the coffee cans the boiling up cans and set fire to the shacks and the townspeople come for miles around for they think the planing mill is on fire. But it is only a bunch of cops making fires and a bunch of firemen playing firemen.

No one fights the cops and the firemen for they have gats and axes and the law and they are afraid to fight them. They pack up their bindles and trudge down the tracks and when they get out of sight they lay in the shadows and wait for a train out of there and cuss the cops and firemen for lousy sons of bitches and hope for the time when they can catch one of them in a dark box car alone and see themselves pulling his guts out with their bare hands.

Armies of men in 1934 and millions of men moving West and East and North and South. 200 on a train coming this way and 200 on a train going that way and what the hell difference does it make which way you go? There is no work anywhere and no food anywhere if you have no money but you can smell the rotten smell of rotting food in the silos in the warehouses in the granaries.

It is 1934 and Los Angeles, California.

We are a hundred stiff that sprawl in this flophouse. The Yellow Car strike is on. Day before the conductors and motor-men walk out the company hangs a notice up on the board.

*Any employee not appearing at his post of duty tomorrow will have his job filled with a scab. It will be taken for granted that that employee has resigned and he will not be rehired by this company.*

They said it nicer but it was a lock-out. The Yellow cars ran with scabs. Cops rode the Yellow cars. Cops rode the Yellow cars to protect the scabs. Its hard to get union recognition when the cops ride the cars and protect the scabs and protect the dividends of the Yellow car company. Strikers can't live forever on solidarity. They had to stop the Yellow cars. They put pegs under their wheels when they stopped. They told the passengers and the scabs to get off and they

turned the cars over on their bellies. They rocked the cars and after a while they turned over on their bellies. A street car is a futile and desolate looking machine with its wheels kicking up in the air like that.

We are a hundred stiff in this flophouse. Twenty-five strikers put a peg under a car in front of this flophouse. They rock and groan and sweat but they can't turn it over. We line the curb and watch them shove. We hear the sirens of the cops that are coming with their gats and their saps and their tear gas bombs.

This big guy on the curb with the scar slashed across his face rolls up his sleeves and grins.

"I used to be a Wobbly," he says. "I'm pretty strong yet. Any you other stiff used to be Wobblies?"

He strides across the street. The old ones follow him and we young ones follow the old ones. We lean on that car and you can hear the glass smashing for a mile. A car looks funny with its wheels kicking in the air like that and we walk back to the curb just as the squad cars skid to a stop. The cops chase the strikers with clubs but they don't pay any attention to us stiff on the curb who are goddam no-good lumpen-proletariat.

There were 22,000,000 people on relief in 1935 and the National Debt was 34,000,000,000 dollars and not even the wise men knew how much money that was and threw up their hands and asked where is any more money going to come from and Bugs Baer said that there was plenty more where that went to but wise men do not listen to such talk as that. People were going crazy every day and the booby-hatches were chocked with people that had gone crazy and you could see them staring at you through the iron bars and they'd take these beans, red beans one at a time and string them on a lavender wire and hide them under the rug, and



when they'd come back a long time after they were not there for someone had eaten them while they were away and they cried because someone had eaten them. And the man with the patent leather shoes and the gold fob said it wouldn't do a damn bit of good to cry because there wasn't another bean in the house and hardly a bean in the world for that matter, and it wouldn't do a damn bit of good to cry. And then they'd go to the closet and hunt and there were angels there. Seven angels not counting the one that spilled black shoe polish all over her red carpet slippers and black cats omenin' around the house and the moan of babies left to die in the rocks of the mountains.

Strikes in Detroit and Milwaukee and Seattle, and Portland, and Frisco and L. A. and Walla Walla and Bad Axe Michigan. The masses feeling their muscles and the cops would come and the militia would come and some of the strikers they'd beat and some of them they'd kill. And hungry faced men with flashing black eyes and teeth that snarled in the sun got up on soap boxes in the parks and on the street corners and spoke in whispers in shrieks in supplication and told the hungry workers they used to sweat with in the factories in the fields in the offices that Morgan and Rockefeller and Ford and Mellon and the Dupont de



Nemours gouged and fatted on 80 per cent of the country and the cops would come and bang their heads with blackjacks till they crumpled in a heap so that they could more easily drag them to the Black Maria. And when they were gone another got on the box and the cops slashed at him with their blackjacks and shot at him with their 45's and their blackjacks made no marks and their 45's no bloody hole and the cops were afraid for they never saw a one like this and they were afraid. The black eyes flashed and the white teeth flashed in the sun and starving men with their rags white from the salt of their own sweat listened in Frisco and L. A. and Detroit and Chi and New York and Mississippi as they stood before the barred windows and the barred doors of their own factories:

"There is—a way out!

Our riveting guns built the skyscrapers and bridges,  
Our shovels dug the mines and highways, laid the rails,  
Our muscles and blood went into the ships,  
Went into the fields and all that's here—  
We'll take it now—STAND ASIDE!"

## CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Special Jeffers number of "The Carmelite," December 28, 1928. Selling now for ten dollars. Only a few copies left, signed by Robinson Jeffers. Apply Box HH "Pacific Weekly."

## THE WORM TURNS

RUSSELL WINTON

**B**OOKS AND WORMS have been associated for a long period of time, if not actually, at least figuratively in the lay mind. So contemporaneous have these two been that the vernacular "book worm" deprecates at once persons who spend no little time reading books as a major interest activity.

The librarian has not escaped the categorical lay mind association of book and worm, and the man of the street has not been far wrong in his momentary estimate of what the librarian's actual part has been in the social development of the masses.

In the past the librarian was nothing more than an efficient warehouseman of printed tomes. The superimposed ethics of the profession denied then any policy or objective in handling the materials which so uncontroversably mould human opinion and ideology. Usually considered, they were pleasant, accommodating persons who sometimes, because they were so interested in the materials they handled, actually read many of the books that they passed on to the public.

That a librarian should ever have attempted to purchase books of a kind destined to clarify current economic and political problems was heresy. Librarians were not supposed to become befouled by the smudge of such issues, but were to remain above and aloof from the profanity of human problems and social interaction.

The cloistered halls were irrefutably supposed to be the limits of their interests.

But the worm has turned, and we find already in one section of the country, the Pacific Northwest, that librarians have decided that theirs is not a catalytic role in the social and economic destiny of the people. As was pointed out in the July 7th issue of the *New Masses* by Jean Simon and Paul Reynolds in their article "Myth of the Free Public Library," the timorous librarians have been prodded into articulate resentment so long enervated by professional ethics and gentility.

Here in the Northwest where accumulated fortunes are only a few years removed from shirt sleeves, the worms are moving and with effect. Always unprotected by any persuasive organization the librarians are beginning to organize. One union has already been established in Butte, Montana, and more will soon follow elsewhere. The truism that Democratic freedom is born of unity, or, as is the case here, of unionism, has been amply demonstrated.

The Pacific Northwest Library Association in its annual meeting held in Seattle this year, on June 23rd to 26th, laid out for itself an endorsement of social policy which is highly significant. Of particular note is that fact that librarians expressed the intent of collecting for availability to the public books and material which proposes to disclose the economic and social causes of the prosperity of this and other decades.

The expression of ideas, purposes, and policy of the PNLA is to be given in a quarterly magazine. The quarterly is to follow the outlines below:

1. Are libraries democratic in principle as well as in theory?

It is the hope of the committee that this question will be answered not only by the head librarians but by every library worker regardless of status. We wish to explode the theory that librarians are not articulate.

2. The value of organization to library workers.

Effective professional advancement and remuneration re-



quire active staff interest and organization. The committee wishes this topic to be discussed from as many angles as possible—adequate staff organizations, guild-practice within the frame-work of the ALA, vertical unionization of all library workers, etc.

### 3. *The relation of society to the library.*

The support of all libraries comes from society. Librarians are well aware that society has dammed up its financial stream which is of paramount importance to the life of libraries. If this tax stream derived largely from private property cannot be renewed, society must produce income from new sources. It is up to librarians to investigate new forms of revenue that society is willing to share with libraries. As this investigation must be realistic and not wishful it should include data on the enactment of certification laws, pension systems, vacations and leaves for study and travel and exchange positions.

### 4. *The relation of the library to society.*

In this day of crisis the library is more than a mere repository of books. It is a center for the dissemination of new ideas and possibilities in science and economics (these seem to deserve an emphasis now) that make for more abundant living for all. Society has the right to look for some degree of leadership from the librarian and his staff. This leadership can be revealed in a variety of ways: action on the part of librarians against all forms of censorship; campaigns to awaken reader interests in current politics and economics; publicity for new books on scientific discovery looking toward the lessening of disease and the prolongation of life; and new books on inventions which bring release from drudgery, thereby furnishing one with more leisure for the good life, finally, leadership as revealed in a careful selection of books that will present the truth of modern war, that all may know whether its wanton destruction of much of the promise of modern life is inevitable.

Such ideas and objectives as are embodied in this proposed organ of the PNLA is the seed of an effective articulation of the formerly ignored, unprotected and unorganized group of white collar workers called librarians. The worm has turned; the metamorphosis is a laudable change from a mute, dog-like thankfulness for existence to a man-like appreciation and expression of human social values and purposes.

## A HISTORY OF THE ARTIST AS PURITAN

EDWARD RADENZEL

### ● BOOKS

MUCH of what is vital in American criticism today can be traced to the appearance, in 1915, of Van Wyck Brooks' "America's Coming of Age," in which the author questioned the Puritan origins of American culture. In a half dozen books published since then, in interpretations of Henry James, Mark Twain, Emerson, he established himself as our foremost social, as well as literary critic. Though younger men have gone beyond his first discoveries in the sources of the mind, their steps are yet directed by his explorations and his keen, fastidious scholarship has laid the foundation for a clearer comprehension of the forces which mold the American man of letters.

If today his fine hope for a literature growing out of a united and free social life has turned to skepticism, his labors have, at least, turned over a richer soil than more sterile spirits dreamed of. While others cried out cynically in the

wilderness for a usable past, Mr. Brooks burrowed in the legacy of the Puritans and the Brahmins of Boston and brought to light the most persistent values of the New England way of life and learning. In "The Flowering of New England"\* is revealed an almost fabulous inheritance, one the disposition of which is circumscribed by many historic and intellectual qualifications, but one which should provide a wise heir with an adequate fund of ideas.

"The Flowering of New England," a work of loving care, is to be the first volume of an American literary history. This work opens on the Boston scene of 1815, an age of portrait painters and statesmen. The War of 1812 had given confidence to New Englanders who, secure at last in their new land, buttressed by a thriving commerce, embarked on a rigid voyage of learning. To them Boston was the hub of the universe, Harvard a fixed realm, the Craigie House began to play its part as the domicile on the literary great. In Connecticut Webster had written the first dictionary, and in Europe Ticknor and Everett exchanged letters with Byron and Goethe.

At the time that another Webster had consecrated Bunker Hill, Prescott had begun his "The Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella" and the *North American Review* had become a pillar of conservatism. By the Eighteen-Forties all New England could speak a dozen European tongues, Dickens had remarked on the learning of American factory girls, but a new and democratic spirit pervaded the world, wafting German literature and natural philosophy to the rockbound Atlantic coast. In a sense Coleridge and Carlyle begot Emerson, and the Lockian philosophy gave way to Transcendentalism.

With Emerson, Alcott, Thoreau and Hawthorne a new *Zeitgeist* came to prevail in the place of the Cantabrigian passion for knowledge. The men of letters walked in the woods, talked to the common people, didactics bowed to poetry. The older order was disdainful of following nature; Everett called Emerson's essays "conceited, laborious nonsense," but as if to rebut the poet relegated books to "scholar's idle times." Longfellow introduced Heidelberg at Cambridge, Thoreau lent a hand to Margaret Fuller on the lilac-papered "Dial," Brook Farm was born and died, the historians, Motley, Parkman, Bancroft were toiling in the archives. As the old theocracy declined poets turned both to irreverence and to solitude. The gloomy Hawthorne moved to Lenox, Thoreau built his hut at Walden, the genial Holmes kicked over the one-hoss shay of Calvinism.

In the shadow of the Civil War the anti-slavery writers became articulate, Lowell turned Abolitionist, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" swept the world like wildfire, but, unconcerned with the new ferment, Hawthorne fretted away his last powers. His despair augured the exiled spirit of Henry James, and now to be seen silhouetted against the bold, strident figure of the hortatory Webster was that of the lost American, Henry Adams. In the threatened dissolution of the Union the cultural domination of a city, Boston, came to an end. Puritanism lost its greatest strength as the strife between North and South broke out. A half century, the greatest period of American letters, ceased almost by order when Hawthorne died; the last conversations of the Saturday Club, Holmes leading a discussion, Emerson quietly listening, sounded the knell of a spirit which had risen with George Ticknor's heroic labors, but goes back to the pietistic view of Jonathan Edwards.

American literature has been dominated by the orthodox fancies of the Puritans. God had a hand in every act of man; in the ultimate he was responsible for human beings and dictated their otherwise puny efforts. This attitude persisted

\*THE FLOWERING OF NEW ENGLAND: 1815-1865, by Van Wyck Brooks. (E. P. Dutton & Co. Inc.) \$4.00



in the practical view of American men toward the academic life; the disrespect for professional standing which has hounded the professors and the hooting of morons at poets have been marked features of the culture pattern. The base values of the profit system, hanging on like dead leaves long after the tree has gone rotten at the roots, are the last vestiges of the theocratic attitude. The awesome memory of Jonathan Edwards and the undignified impress of Ben Franklin will not yield until a new order shall replace the dollars-and-cents morality of our time. Then too we may more objectively read the American classicists, whose pieties have converted their works into matter read largely by children and unwilling students.

As history Brooks' treatise is superb narrative, richly and authentically colored by the language of his protagonists. Passages on Thoreau's Concord and rural life are as evocative as any the pastoral writers of the nineteenth century composed. The completion of this volume genuinely represents a milestone in the writing of literary history, but in his fidelity to the chronology of his subject, Brooks has discarded the responsibilities of criticism. Save once, when he measures the shortcomings of Lowell, he abnegates entirely his critical duties. In this avoidance of the controversial, Brooks has signalized the fulfillment of his disillusionment. Where once he had not been content to analyze literature in any other social terms, he now prefers to retire into an honorable and scholarly isolation. Perhaps one who has labored so intensely deserves the reward which an uncritical, quiet immersion in his field may offer, but the date of this book will mark a decisive point in American criticism. For the men younger than Brooks who have derived sustenance from him will sadly note his passing from the ranks of those who were not satisfied with histories alone, but had sought to determine consequences.

### THE YEAR OF CRISIS

MOSCOW SKIES, by Maurice Hindus. (Random House) \$2.75

THE non-fictioneers are realizing that people are more interested in people than anything else in life. One by one they have written "novels." Vincent Sheean, Louis Adamic, Robert Briffault, and even Santayana have contributed their ideas in this form. Now Maurice Hindus, Russian-born author of widely read books on the Soviet, has joined their company.

"Moscow Skies" is the proof. It tells Hindus' own story of a return to ancestral soil, except for certain thinly disguised facts. His hero, Bernard, is born in the United States instead of Russia. There is a love affair in which Bernard, as a newspaper correspondent, falls in love with Anna, the beautiful wife of a Russian friend, seduces her in the best American style, and elopes with her. The rest of the book, apart from this narrative thread, is devoted to a description of the people who lived, wept and rejoiced during the most crucial period of the Five Year Plans: 1929-1930.

Characters from every walk of life are introduced, and the little drama each is playing is told against the background of intimate family life. One meets André, the peasant boy whom Anna, the aristocrat, called from the stable to her life as a revolutionary; Vladimir Yegorovitch, one-time Imperial officer, who chose the "Red" instead of the "White"; Volodya, the hopeless drunk and his God-intoxicated brother. Misha, are presented, as well as many others, representing the old, and the new. Quite a number are more than symbols.

Giving a panoramic view of a new civilization is an almost impossible task, and this is what Hindus has attempted. The medium chosen is the only one at all adapted to the subject-matter, and considering everything, the author has done a good job—written a book that absolutely no one can question as to impartiality, background, or sincerity. "Moscow Skies"

certainly has its faults as fiction, but it does make Russia very real—much more so than countless other books on the subject.

GORDON CHAMBERS

### ONE AGAINST SOCIETY

THE OCEAN, by Paul Nizovoy. (Harper & Bros.) \$2.50

IN SO MANY of the novels coming from contemporary Russia the reader sets himself to withstand or agree with the political propaganda concealed or otherwise within its pages. Nizovoy's "The Ocean" is the exciting exception.

Some years before the revolution Nicolai William, seeking to obtain absolute mental and physical independence, establishes himself and his new wife in the ice wastes beyond Archangel. Bravely over man-breaking difficulties he gains sure economic security, rears a large family and educates them. The excellent library he slowly accumulates together with his own individualistic philosophy are their only education.

Believing liberty and freedom could not be had through society (as he knew it), he sought absolute separation. His inevitable tragedy follows when the mighty wave of revolution sweeps over even the edges of his own distant ice floe, sucking away bodily and ideally his own children.

Many novels have been written of man against society; many more of man against nature. "The Ocean" is something of both. The deftly developed family character and situation bring to mind the currently popular dynasty novels. We wonder. More could be said.

EDWARD BRUCE RAMSEY

### TWO NEW DEALS

HALF WAY WITH ROOSEVELT, by Ernest K. Lindley. (The Viking Press) 416 pages, \$2.75

THE NEW DEAL: ENGLISH AND AMERICAN, by H. J. Whigham. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.) 119 pages, \$1.00

MR. LINDLEY who is political observer for the New York Herald-Tribune was assigned to cover Roosevelt from the time he became governor of New York until this past summer when he was assigned to Mr. Landon.

Mr. Lindley has written an unprejudiced account of Roosevelt's administration and Roosevelt as a human being. The United States according to the author was by no means the only country that destroyed crops. Several European countries as well as Brazil did the same thing. The N.R.A. into which Roosevelt allowed himself to be inveigled, Mr. Lindley feels was a dismal failure. Of course, Roosevelt is criticized for his housing policy, and for his optimism about the forces of natural or semi-natural recovery, leading to failure to adopt an aggressive spending policy. In his handling of big business, the President's "alternation of soothing syrup with hypodermics probably helped recovery" according to Mr. Lindley. On the credit side of the ledger, the author puts 16 items, among them the T.V.A., social insurance, protection of collective bargaining, banking reform, and the saving of homes and farms from foreclosure.

Mr. Lindley has something to say about the personal charm of Roosevelt, his weakness as a disciplinarian, his impulsive nature, and his remarkable vitality. The book concludes with comments on the labor movement with its aggressive leadership, and a prediction that any individual, group, or class which attempts to confine the idea of abundance for everybody will be blasted to pieces.

England too experimented and regimented to bring back prosperity, according to Mr. H. J. Whigham, author of "The New Deal: English and American," but England did it first.



Mr. Whigham shows in a very readable little book that England, with old age pensions and unemployment insurance already in existence at the time of depression, was able to conquer unemployment more quickly than America. He, unlike Mr. Lindley, deplores the Supreme Court N.R.A. decision, believing that re-employment was badly checked by this decision. Abandoning the gold standard was preceded by England's going off the gold standard. Many American financiers justified England's act, but had nothing but criticism for the United States. The Securities Exchange Act, Mr. Whigham argues, was one of the major benefits of the New Deal. If this act had been passed ten years before, the panic of 1929 would have been of comparative little import.

Mr. Whigham continues his comparison:

In house building, England of course is far ahead of the United States. The last bank failure in Great Britain was in 1878. The number of bank failure during Hoover's administration was 6364. Fortunately Roosevelt gave us bank deposit insurance. Our federal debt need not terrify us when we think of England's. One thing the United States is teaching England and that is the value of public works. All in all, the book is a good argument, somewhat one-sided perhaps, for the New Deal.

GEORGE VAN DER WETERING

## HUMOROUS AND HUMORLESS

GAILY THE TROUBADOUR, by Arthur Guiterman.  
(New York: E. P. Dutton & Co.) \$2.00

FOLDING BEDOUINS, by Howard Vincent O'Brien. (Willetts, Clark & Co.) \$1.00

JUDGING from its generally poor quality it must be harder than one would think to write short humorous verse. Arthur Guiterman succeeds better than most, but this volume, definitely bulkier than most poetic collections, contains much that is only mildly amusing.

However, the reader occasionally comes across a poem like the one "On the Vanity of Earthly Greatness" which runs:

"The tusk that clashed in mighty brawls  
Of Mastodons, are billiard balls.

The sword of Charlemagne the Just  
Is ferric oxide, known as rust.

The grizzly bear whose potent hug  
Was feared by all, is now a rug.

Great Caesar's dead and on the shelf,  
And I don't feel so well myself!"

This would strike a responsive chord in the heart of almost any reader.

Humorous travel books seem to be easier to write and since the days of immortal Mark Twain, who wrote such excellent examples as "Innocence Abroad" and "Following the Equator" there has been a steady stream of such writing, most of it quite entertaining, authors like Stephen Leacock, Donald Ogden Stewart, and J. P. McEvoy doing some of their best work along these lines. By the way, Mr. Stewart, we are still waiting for your next book. Doesn't Hollywood give you any time off?

Well, anyway, another book has been added to the long list of whimsical travelogues, and this time it is a story of life in a trailer, called, promisingly enough, "Folding Bedouins," written by a newspaper columnist, Howard Vincent O'Brien. With his wife and daughter he rented a trailer and traveled to Florida and back in it on his vacation. The humor is not exceptional, which is surprising as one would think that such a subject would bring out the best in a writer, but he seems to have had a rather unpleasant time of it throughout, and his

## CORRESPONDENCE

"Pacific Weekly," Carmel California  
Sirs,

I received two copies of your paper which I greatly appreciated. As we haven't read anything quite as frank and free to express opinions as your Weekly, we fail to understand some of the articles. Our newspapers do not mention such organizations as People's Front etc.

Our club has voiced a desire to learn more about the subjects of Communism and Fascism in America but we are at a loss to know where to begin when we find most books and articles disagreeing so violently.

We do have enough faith in the authenticity of Mr. Steffens' opinions to feel that we'd like to have his advice on what to read for information along this line, so we turn to you, his associates.

I am enclosing one dollar for more "Pacific Weeklys." Please send at least four old ones with comments by Lincoln Steffens. The others can be current issues if you are still publishing them. Have you one or two old ones in which Steffens expressed his opinions of the present government administration and the New Deal? That is the first question everyone asks when his name (Steffens) is mentioned—How does he stand on the subject of Roosevelt and the New Deal? What comments did he make when Roosevelt began carrying out his policies?

Won't you please answer these questions to straighten us out? Otherwise we can not understand most of the articles we read. Our newspapers serve only to confuse rather than enlighten the persons sincerely interested in getting at facts.

1. What is the principle difference between Communism and Fascism?

2. What is the meaning of "People's Front"?

3. What is meant by "Leftists"? "Rightists"?

4. Who are the "brown shirts"? "New Masses"?

5. Steffens commented, quote—"The Spanish defenders are our world leaders."—Just what party does he term the Spanish defenders? Are they the "royalists"? If so do they represent the form of government Mr. Steffens approved?

6. If Lincoln Steffens would have recommended, say, two books on the subject of Communism and Fascism—what would they have been? We are a group of very busy mothers in our little club and haven't time to read unlimited numbers of books—surely there are some written to the point and with truthfulness. Can't you help us out?

I am sorry to trouble you folks with all this but let me again state—our faith in Steffens' sincere efforts to present the facts truthfully as he saw them, warrants our every effort to get information from his associates.

Fort Worth, Texas

September 23, 1936

Respectfully,

Mrs. J. V. C.

(We invite our readers to answer this letter addressing answers by the initials of the writer and sending them care of "Pacific Weekly." We feel anyone so sincerely anxious for information should get it.)

Dear "Pacific Weekly"

This is a most inconvenient time for me to dig down into my jeans toward your rescue. However, the Fascist Threat is to blame for that. I can afford two dollars against the threat better than I can the lost hope of ever getting \$2.00 again if the threat comes true. Hope you make out.

San Francisco

L. C. W.

Dear P. W.

It breaks our hearts to think P. W. might go on the rocks. We enclose \$25.00 as we promised and we regret bitterly we cannot do more. We should hate to see the only radical and competent newspaper of this region or the Coast die.

Los Gatos

C. E. S. W. & S. F. B.

Gentlemen:

Here is my dollar for P. W. I wish I could send more for your fine magazine, which never contains an uninteresting page. I hope awfully you won't have to stop publication.

Berkeley

Z. K.

heart probably wasn't in his work. Toward the end the book descends to a level of writing which I haven't seen since I last read the humor section of our high school annual.

He does give a great deal of good advice and information about what to expect as to conveniences in a trailer and the facilities one can look forward to finding along the road, but both trailer construction and auto camps are improving so swiftly that most of this is unfortunately out-dated.

WINSTON GIBBS



## ANNOUNCING . . .

THE publication on November 9th of a special enlarged pre-Convention issue of *Pacific Weekly* for the Western Writers' Congress, which number will also be the Fall Book Number and a memorial issue to Lincoln Steffens. Many requests have come in for such an issue. In this number internationally known Western writers will be represented in short stories, poems, sketches, news articles and literary criticism; there will be illustrations by Western artists and photographs of Western authors.

Some of those scheduled to appear are Nathanael West, Elsa Gidlow, Myron Brinig, Peter Quince, George P. West, Sara Bard Field, Hildegard Flanner, Marie de L. Welch, Ethel Turner, Ernest Albee, Edward Radenzel, Alexander Kaun, Carey McWilliams, Tom Kromer, A. I. Bezzerides, Charles Erskine Scott Wood, Haakon M. Chevalier, Mrs. Robinson Jeffers, and others, including representatives of the Eastern, Mid-Western, English and International Writers' Congresses. The newest Fall books will be reviewed by experts in their field.

One *Pacific Associate* writes:

"PACIFIC WEEKLY, lively, accurate, unafraid, the only anti-fascist and progressive magazine in the West, seems to us the white hope of the movement toward realistic unionism among professional working groups. The necessity for such a local organ as a voice for the Newspaper Guild, Teachers' Federation, Inter-Professional Association, Theater and Dance Groups, American Writers' Union, and others, cannot be over-estimated at this time. As a correspondent says in the last issue, things are happening too rapidly all over the country for national magazines to deal with all sections adequately. 'Regional journalism must step into the picture.'"

WILL YOU SEND WHAT YOU CAN TO COVER THE COST OF THIS SPECIAL ISSUE IMMEDIATELY. THANKS!



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## THEY TELL ME . . .

GRANVILLE HICKS WRITES: "I don't know about Mrs. Soule and Samuel Putnam, but I am not going to Brazil, never expected to go to Brazil, and haven't the remotest idea why anybody thought I was going. I should like to well enough, but I can't: I'm sitting tight in Grafton, getting ready for Winter and working on a book on recent British literature."

We're sorry we got that information wrong and "They Tell Me" apologizes. We're glad Hicks is working on a new book. He has just edited a collection of John Reed's "reportage": his biography of John Reed published by Macmillan in the Spring has been highly praised.

ALFRED A. KNOFF is publishing this month a volume of post-humous poems by the late A. E. Housman, author of "A Shropshire Lad" and "Last Poems." Housman was a tall, spare, quiet and mysterious "don," a Latin professor in Cambridge, England. This book will contain forty-eight lyrics, carefully chosen by his brother Laurence from the manuscript material left by Housman. A. E. Housman wrote before he died:

"I direct my brother to destroy all my prose manuscripts in whatever language, and I permit him, but do not enjoin him, to select from my verse manuscript writing and to publish, any poems which appear to him to be completed and to be not inferior to the average of my published poems; and I direct him to destroy all other poems and fragments of verse."

KNOFF IS ALSO rushing publication of "Spain in Revolt" by Harry Gannes, foreign affairs commentator for the "Daily Worker," and Theodore Repard. This is the first book on the Spanish struggle in any language. "Every aspect of the subject is covered," says the publisher, "the land question, the Catholic Church, the national question, the army, political parties, the role of communists, anarchists, fascists, etc., and a survey of events leading up to the present civil war."

HERE'S WHAT Stefan Zweig says about Sholem Asch's new novel, "The War Goes On":

"This new novel of Sholem Asch seeks in an epic way to describe present day Germany. It describes Germany since the end of the War—those sixteen years of freedomless freedom which were for the soul of the German people more tragic and more bitter than the War itself. It evokes a panorama of portraits of all classes and races that went through the hellish period of the inflation, the chaos of the civil war, the poisonous dissipation of false wealth, the carousel of the international money changers, the disillusionment and embitterment of the downtrodden classes. Then the awakening of nationalism and the unfolding of racial prejudice. . . ."

The book is published by Putnam.

G. P. PUTNAM and Minton, Balch are publishing a long-awaited book "Schooldays with Kipling" by G. C. Beresford. The sub-title is "The True Inner History of 'Stalky and Co.'" and the author is the original M'Turk. The original Stalky (General Dunsterville) has written the introduction. The book is full of anecdotes of the boy who afterwards became Britain's Imperial Poet.

THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE of the Mid-West Federation of Arts and Sciences, which also publishes the new magazine set up by the Mid-West Writers' Congress, has brought out its first book "This, My Brother" by John Rood. Mr. Rood donated 1000 copies of his book to the federation to help its finances. It can be bought for \$1.00 at 869 Oakwood Boulevard, Chicago. On the Publications Committee are Sherwood Anderson, Jack Conroy, Ruth Suckow, Mitchell Saporin, John Rood and others.

WHAT-NOTS: Joseph Freeman's autobiography, "An American Testament," is the October choice of the Book Union and R. Palme Dutt's "World Politics" is the club's first dividend book . . . A whole page of poems by Shirley Temple will appear in the December issue of "Pictorial Review." . . . Selden Rodman, of "Common Sense Magazine," has written a book-length narrative poem, which Viking Press will publish next year . . . Elmer Rice's impressionistic play, "The Adding Machine," and "Processional," by John Howard Lawson, will be produced by the Manhattan-Bronx Division of the Federal Theater Project, which is headed by Alfred Kreymborg . . . Dorothy Parker has returned to Hollywood. A volume of her collected poems will be issued by the Viking Press as a Christmas item. The title, taken from Romeo and Juliet, will be "Not So Deep as a Well."

ELLA WINTER